



His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
LETTER
TO THE
PARLIAMENT
OF
SCOTLAND.
WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have had convincing Proofs of your Loyalty & good Affection to Our Person and Government in the former Sessions of Parliament, for which We return you Our hearty Thanks; And We do assure you, that We design to give you such Encouragement upon all Occasions, as may every way make you find the Advantage of your Faithfulness and Duty to Us. We are sensible of the cheerful Assistance and Support We have had from you during the continuance of the War, which by the Blessing of God upon Our Endeavours, is now ended in an Honourable Peace; And the greatest Satisfaction We have in this, is, that thereby We have the Prospect of the Prosperity and Happiness of Our good Subjects.

We did intend to hold this Session of Parliament in Person, that hearing in Our own Presence, what concerns the Interest & Advantage of that Our Ancient Kingdom reasoned upon; We might have been more fully informed of the Laws that are fit to be made: But the present Circumstances of Our Affairs, both Here and Abroad has hindered Us from prosecuting that Design; And we having intire Trust and Confidence in you, have thought fit again to call you together in Our Absence, and have Nominated and Appointed Our right Trusty, and right intirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, *Patrick Earl of March-mount* Our Chancellor, to be Our Commissioner, and to Represent Our Royal Person and Authority amongst you, of whose Fitness and Abilities for discharging this Trust We are well satisfied; and We doubt not but his Fidelity and Zeal for Our Service, and the Good of the Kingdom, which has appeared in the several Stations wherein he has been employed, will render him acceptable to you.

We have fully instructed him in what We judge to be necessary for the Support of Our Government, and Safety of that Our Kingdom; And therefore We desire you to give him intire Trust and Credit, and he has full Power to pass such Laws for the good of Our People, as appear to be most needful at present.

Our Enemies Abroad, and those who are Disaffected to Our Government at Home, are still ready to lay hold of all Opportunities for carrying on their bad Designs; And therefore We judge it absolutely necessary for your Preservation, that the Forces upon the present Establishment be continued: And We cannot doubt but you will provide suitable Supplies for maintaining of them.

The Funds given the former Sessions have fallen short of what was expected, which has occasioned Arrears to be due to the Forces lately Disbanded; And there is also a Debt upon the Account of the Friggots, and the Forts and Garrison-places need Reparation: And therefore we recommend to you to provide what may be sufficient for these Ends.

It will be most acceptable to Us, that you fall upon effectual Methods for discouraging Vice, Immorality and Irreligion, and We are well satisfied with the Progress made in that Matter in the last Session.

We do upon this Occasion again give you full Assurance, that as We know Our Interest, and that of Our Peoples to be inseparable, so We have firmly resolved to make it Our principal Care to maintain their Religion, Laws and Liberties, and *Presbyterian Government* in that Church, and the Flourishing of Trade, being of great Advantage to Our Subjects: We will give all due Encouragement for promoting thereof.

We haveing proposed nothing but what is necessary for your own Preservation, do earnestly recommend to you Unanimity, and a Cordial Concurrence in dispatching thereof, that it may appear to all, you are not unmindful of the happy Deliverance you have had from the Dangers, to which your Religion and Liberties were formerly exposed. In full Confidence whereof, We do assure you of Our Royal Favour and Protection in all your Concerns; So We bid you heartily Farewell. Given at Our Court at Kensington the 24 Day of June 1698, and of Our Reign the Tenth Year.

By His Majesties Command,

Sic Subscribitur,

J. A. OGILVIE